

CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM – PROPOSITION 50

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Last Updated: 8/14/2007

Q: How much is available in this round?

A: \$20.5 million.

Q: What are the minimum and maximum amounts that will be awarded per individual grants?

A: No minimum or maximum amounts have been established for this round.

Q: How many funding rounds will there be?

A: This is the third round of river parkways funding through Proposition 50 and we anticipate two additional rounds of funding through Proposition 84.

Q: According to the guidelines, a project involving the acquisition of property purchased in excess of the Fair Market Value (FMV) would be considered an ineligible project. Could it be considered an eligible project, if the grantee found the means to cover the amount in excess of FMV?

A: No. The State is only interested in participating in acquisitions purchased at the approved Fair Market Value.

Q: When are the grant applications due and awards announced?

A: Applications are due no later than Friday, October 19, 2007 by 4:00 p.m. Awards will be announced in June 2008.

Q: The grant guidelines require prevailing wages be paid for any public work projects financed with Prop 50 grant funds. How is this requirement applicable to a city (the grantee) that plans on using their Public Works Department to complete the project?

A: Labor Code Section 1771 specifically exempts the prevailing wage requirement for work carried out by a public agency with its own forces. For more information on "prevailing wage", refer to <http://workitout.ca.gov/faq.asp?id=143>

Q: In evaluating grant applications, will the size of the population to be served influence the evaluation?

A: No, but the evaluation will consider how well the population will be served.

Q: When must the funds be expended?

A: June 30, 2012.

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FAQs Continuation (Page 2)

Q: Are costs directly related to the grant project, but incurred prior to the project award date eligible for reimbursement?

A: No, costs must be incurred during the project performance period to be eligible.

Q: What is the Project Performance Period?

A: It refers to the beginning and end dates of the grant agreement. Eligible costs during this period can be funded from the grant.

Q: Can we use an overhead rate for personnel and/or employee services?

A: No, costs must be directly tracked to a specific purpose, project and employee with supporting timesheets. Rates can only be used when determining eligible staff benefits.

Q: Are matching funds required and how does it impact scoring?

A: Matching funds are not required for this program. However, up to five points can be earned by securing other sources of funds. Disadvantaged communities will be awarded five points automatically in this category whether or not they have other sources of funds.

Q: Are Federal Agencies eligible to apply for a grant?

A: No. Federal Agencies are not eligible applicants.

Q: Is it the applicant who has to have site control/land tenure?

A: Yes. However, there are various ways to meet the site control/tenure requirement, (e.g., fee ownership, long-term agreements and easements). Land tenure must include the right to develop, operate and maintain all lands included in the project for the period required in the guidelines.

Q: Does CEQA need to be completed prior to submitting a grant application and can you explain how CEQA factors into project readiness?

A: No. However, Agency does require an initial study and explanation as to how CEQA will be completed (e.g., full EIR, Negative Declaration, etc.). Moreover, the grantee has one year after the grant is awarded to complete their CEQA. The Grant Guidelines contain a comprehensive list of documents required to demonstrate compliance. (Funding for project implementation will not be approved, nor funds released, until CEQA is completed.)

Q: Are permits required to be completed prior to submitting an application? Will priority or preference points be given to projects where permits have already been obtained?

A: No. The Agency does not require permits to be in place when submitting an application. The status of the permits may be considered, however, when evaluating factors such as due diligence and project readiness.

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FAQs Continuation (Page 3)

Q: According to the Guidelines, projects with “hardscape” may receive additional Technical Committee review. What will this review entail?

A: Applications that include hardscape or “engineered elements” may be subject to additional review to determine compatibility with the natural physical processes of the environment. Examples of well engineered elements include: walkways in a dune area designed to work with or allow the uninterrupted and natural movement of sand; pedestrian/bikeway bridges across streams with support piers designed to accommodate the natural movement of sediment; or parking areas designed with permeable surface and/or storm water drainage systems to protect water quality by minimizing hydrocarbon-laden runoff into surface water.

Similarly, applicants are encouraged to use “environmentally friendly materials” (EFM) whenever possible in the construction of trails and other recreational amenities. Such materials refer to products that inflict little or no harm on the environment either through their production or subsequent use. Some examples of EFM applications include: benches using a materials comprised of recycled post-consumer waste; trail surface constructed of durable natural materials such as decomposed granite (versus asphalt); or pier posts made of inert material such as recycled plastic (versus creosote-treated wood) that if lost during a flood event would pose little harm to the aquatic community.

Q: In the River Parkways guidelines, the definition of a River Parkway states that it needs to be, “adjacent to a river or stream”. Would parkways adjacent to other water bodies (e.g., lakes, wetlands, flood control channels, aqueducts, etc.) be eligible for this program?

A: A project must be adjacent to a river or stream/creek. Applicants are required to specify the location of the river or stream/creek as part of a complete application (see item #6, Site Plan, on page 14 of the River Parkways guidelines).

Q: Regarding the five statutory conditions, where an applicant must meet at least two to be eligible, if one of the conditions has been previously met and funded via a separate project, can that project be expanded to meet a second condition, thereby making the expanded project eligible for a River Parkways grant?

A: No, all projects eligible for funding from this program must, in themselves, meet two of the five statutory conditions (as well as meet other requirements of the program).

Q. My organization has several eligible projects that we feel are competitive. Should we submit one application for all projects, or individual applications for each?

A. Submit one application for each individual project. Each project (as defined on page 46 of the guidelines) will be evaluated and scored by the committee on an individual basis.

Q. Will I be penalized for submitting more than one application?

A. No, the committee will evaluate and score each project on its own merit.



FAQs Continuation (Page 4)

Q: If we meet two statutory conditions, can we get additional points if other conditions are met as well?

A: Yes, while an applicant may earn up to 30 maximum points in the Statutory Conditions category based on the two statutory conditions met (as indicated on the Application Form, Appendix M), additional points may be earned in the State Resource Priorities section for other statutory conditions met by the project. See Section VI, B.4 on page 9.

Q: How will you determine whether or not you are going to schedule a site visit?

A: We anticipate visiting projects as needed to facilitate funding recommendations to the Secretary. The number of projects receiving site visits depends on scoring, number of applications received, requested funding amounts, etc.

Q: Will an application go forward for review without a letter from the Willing Seller?

A: No. Applications must include a willing seller letter stating that the seller is willing to enter into an agreement for the sale of the real property, and for a purchase price not to exceed Fair Market Value, should grant funds be awarded.

Q: Can I submit an application to both acquire and develop the same piece of property?

A: No. Projects that include both acquisition and development are not eligible.

